

REMARKS

Claims 1-52 were pending in the present application. Applicant amends Claims 1, 14, 15, 19, 28, 29, 42, and 43 to clarify claimed subject matter and cancels Claims 12, 13, 26, 27, 40, 41, and 52 without prejudice. The specification and drawings support these claim amendments. Therefore, these revisions introduce no new matter.

Claims 1-11, 14-25, 28-39, and 42-51 are for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment. Applicant requests favorable consideration of this response and allowance of the subject application based on the following remarks.

Previous Claims Rejections Under 35 USC § 101

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's withdrawal of the 35 USC § 101 rejections in the previous office action.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13-14, 27-28, 41-42, and 52 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims (Office Action, page 14). Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that these claims are allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's assistance in advancing prosecution of the application.

Applicant amends independent **Claims 1, 15, and 29** to recite features formerly recited in allowable dependent Claims 13, 27, 41, respectively and to recite features

formerly recited in the intervening Claims 12, 26, and 40, respectively. Applicant amends independent **Claim 43** to recite features formerly recited in allowable dependent Claim 52.

The amendments to independent Claims 1, 15, 29, and 43 are purely of form (i.e., dependent format to independent format), and are not to overcome prior art or any other objections. Applicant amends dependent Claims 14, 28, and 42 to depend from one of independent Claims 1, 15, and 29, respectively. Accordingly, dependent Claims 12, 13, 26, 27, 40, 41, and 52 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 15, 29, and 43 are in allowable form. Therefore, Applicant submits that **Claims 1-11, 14-25, 28-39, and 42-51** are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-12, 15-26, 29-40, and 43-51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over a publication titled "Image retrieval by hypertext links", issued to Harmandas et al., (hereinafter "Harmandas"), further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,845,278 issued to Kirsch et al., (hereinafter "Kirsch"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claims 13-14, 27-28, 41-42, and 52 have allowable subject matter. Applicant amends independent **Claims 1, 15, 29, and 43** to recite features formerly recited in allowable dependent Claims 13, 27, 40 and 52, respectively and to recite features formerly recited in the intervening Claims 12, 26, and 40, respectively. Thus, Claims 1, 15, 29, and 43 are in allowable form and in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-11, 15-25, 29-39, and 43-51 are in allowable form and in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Claims 12, 26, and 40 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §103 rejections.

Conclusion

Claims 1-11, 14-25, 28-39, and 42-51 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. If any issue remains unresolved that would prevent allowance of this case, Applicant requests that the Office contact the undersigned attorney to resolve the issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

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